

GRACE United Methodist Church

1345 Chartres Street, La Salle IL 61301

Rev. Dr. Solomon Sudhakar, Pastor

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Office Hours 8:30 AM -1: 30 PM Tuesday, Thursday & Friday

NEWSLETTER, MARCH 2025

For by grace, you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God-- not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life. *Ephesians 2:8-10*

Dear Friends:

Greetings to you all in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Hope you all had a great month of February. Winter – the cold weather and occasional snow is still with us but there is good news – spring is around the corner. I also hope you are having a blessed season of Lent. At church we are focusing our meditations and singing songs and hymns reflecting our Lenten journey. Lent is a good time to think about difficult or unpopular decisions we make as we walk the way of the cross. Lent is a time where we look at our spirituality and the condition of our relationship with our God and realize as the scripture above reminds us that we are saved by God and it a gift of God to you and me. God made us and created us in Christ Jesus for good works. Even as we prepare for our spring cleaning of our homes and offices, it is also a good time for a spiritual cleansing. Scripture says that Jesus reminds us that our bodies are the temples for the living God. And it is important to ask ourselves - What is the state of your temple – your body. Does it need some cleaning? Lent is a time to focus on this important spiritual practice of cleansing. Like in spring, after a long winter, we have the opportunity to start fresh.

This season we will have special services, please check the list in this newsletter. I am also very glad that Grace UMC is joining the Ecumenical Lenten services, by joining various churches in LaSalle – Peru area. I invite you all to come and join us for our Maundy Thursday Communion Service, Good Friday Cross Walk at Bakers Lake followed by our own Good Friday service at church. I invite your family and friends for our Easter service. Come be blessed and be a blessing for others!

Continue to pray for one another as Christ intercedes for all of us. Continue to pray, call and visit some of our elderly folks who are not able to join in our weekly services. Continue to pray for all our children – for wisdom and knowledge and especially for safety and protection as they go to schools, play games and sports and so on. This month from our church office we will try to send out this Newsletter to all the email addresses we have and we will also mail them to our elderly and those who requested a paper copy. If any of you have preferences, please inform us or write a note and put it in our offering plate during Sunday services. In the meantime, I leave you all with prayers and good thoughts for this month.

God Bless!

Pastor Solomon



LENT & EASTER SERVICES @ Grace UMC

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 5 and ends on April 20 with Easter.

**3.19.2025: Ecumenical Lenten Service. 7 PM
Grace UMC Choir Singing**

4.13.2025: Palm Sunday Service. 9 AM

**4.17.2025: Maundy Thursday Eucharist Service.
6:30 PM Stripping of the Altar**

**4.18.2025: Stations of the Cross at Baker's Lake @ 10:30 AM Good
Friday Service: 6:30 PM**

4.20.2025: Easter Eucharist Service 9 AM

Ecumenical Lenten Service Schedule 2025

Date	Host Church	Preacher
March 12 7:00 pm	LaSalle Congregational	Betty Delgado
March 19 7:00	Grace UMC LaSalle	Lee Iseley
March 26 7:00 pm	Zion UCC. Peru	Karen Karczewski
April 2 7:00 pm	Spring Valley UCC	Alex Garncarz
April 9 7:00 pm	Waltham Presbyterian	Jon Graham
Good Friday noon	DePue UCC	Joel Stevenor

We are accepting items (no limit) for the sale to benefit the church from:

March 23 and 30th before church

March 18th and 25th 4 pm - 7 pm

March 20th and 27th 10 am - 12 pm

Please have each item priced and labeled with your initials. Items not sold may be used for a 2nd sale or picked up on April 5th from 1 - 2 pm. Items must be clean, not broken, and in good working condition. **NO CLOTHING!!**

During the sale, there will be a bake sale, we encourage everyone to participate. Baked goods may be dropped off at church on Wednesday, April 2nd between 1:00-3:00 pm and April 3rd from 10:00 am -2:00 pm.

If you are interested in helping, please let Barb White or Trudy Forkner know.

Thanks!!



Grace Giving Tree

Socks for all ages disappear as soon as they are put out, so help us restock. Clip socks on the Grace Giving Tree or leave them in the basket under the tree in the foyer. Thank you!



Change for Change: Bring your change to church on Sunday and make some noise! Thank you!

(L.I.F.T) Ladies in Fellowship Together: Thank you for supporting our LIFT ministry! Remember you can always invite a friend to any of our restaurant or church gatherings!

Next events:

Thursday, March 27th – LIFT volunteers are providing the meal for PADS.



Sunday, April 6th: at 2 p.m. all ladies are invited to a Café event with fun and refreshments. We are planning a “Spring Chicken” party, and are asking all ladies to come, and invite a friend to attend too! There will be lots of great fellowship, so please come and strengthen your bonds with other ladies of the church!

Homebound & Nursing Home Members

How about sending a
greeting to one of Grace
UMC's shut ins?

If you know of anyone else
who should be included on
this list or of any
corrections, please contact

Leann Wilcoxon at
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Dick Graff

[505 College Ave](#)
[Ottawa, IL 61350](#)

Mary Fran Walter

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[3230 Becker Dr,](#)
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Rose Marie Redeen

[714 12th St, Peru, IL 61354](#)

Tabby Chandler

[1828 15th St, Peru, IL 61354](#)

Myrtle Hitchins,

[3230 Becker Dr. Peru IL](#)
[61354](#)

Russ Defenbaugh

[206 N. Central Ave.](#)
[Ladd, IL 61329](#)

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

7. David Stacker
11. Jack Brittin
12. Alisha Zоргdrager
13. Eric Sobin
15. Michael Free
18. Claudia Mikyska
19. Kyle Rimmele
20. Satya Sudhakar
23. Ellen Renk
24. Reason McCormick
Ever McCormick
Matthew Westerman
26. Betty Knafelc
27. Ken Weber
Grace McCormick
29. Linda Brant

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

GRACE CHURCH SALE

Sale Dates:

April 3rd, 3 pm - 7 pm
April 4th, 9 am - 2 pm
April 5th, 9 am - 1 pm

A red banner at the top of the page features four paper airplane graphics. Two are white and two are blue, arranged in two pairs. Dotted lines trail from the blue airplanes towards the center. The text 'PRAIRIE SOUTH LEADERSHIP TRAINING 2025' is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters across the center of the banner.

PRAIRIE SOUTH LEADERSHIP TRAINING 2025

Saturday, March 22

9 a.m. to Noon

Oregon UMC, 200 S 4th Street, Oregon

Cost:

- \$10 per person
- Total of \$30 per Church*

**Register each person under the church member option entering in their information and workshop choices.*

Classes: Choose one class.

- **SPRC Training** — Rev. Danita R. Anderson, Assistant to the Bishop
- **Church Finances and Budgeting** — Elain Moy, Conference Treasurer
- **Conference Ministries and What to Expect at Annual Conference** — Rev. Fabiola Grandon-Mayer ,
Director of Connectional Ministry
- **Church Redevelopment** — Rev. Christian Coon , Director of Congregational Development and
Redevelopment
- **Net Zero Class** — Rev. Beth Galbreath, NIC Sustainability Task Force

Online Registration:

<https://na.eventscloud.com/ereg/newreg.php?eventid=833482&>

Lenten Bible Study

Have you ever been at odds with God?

**Have you resisted, defied, or tried to bargain your way out of what you thought
God wanted?**

You aren't alone. Scripture documents similar stories.

**In this Easter Study Andy Stanley looks at some of the people whose lives
intersected with Jesus in the weeks leading to his crucifixion. Each of them had
an agenda that put them at odds with God and Jesus. As you'll see, there's a little
bit of them in all of us.**

The *Why Easter Matters Study*

Sessions include:

- 1. The High Cost of Following Christ**
- 2. The Risk of Surrendering to God**
- 3. The God Who Can Be Trusted**
- 4. The Foundation of Our Faith**

March 23 – April 13, 2025 (4 Weeks) Book Available in the office- \$15.00